



# KENTUCKY DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

## NEWS RELEASE

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## **HOLLIDAY GIVEN CONTRACT EXTENSION**

(FRANKFORT, Ky.) – At its regular meeting in Frankfort today, the Kentucky Board of Education unanimously agreed to award Kentucky Education Commissioner Terry Holliday a four-year extension of his contract.

"This board's relationship with Terry is extremely interactive on significant, high-level policy issues, such as the implementation of 2009's Senate Bill 1, the state's new assessment and accountability model, teacher and administrator professional growth, and the focus on college and career readiness for all Kentucky students," said Board Chair David Karem. "This contract extension sends a strong message to all of Kentucky's education partners that the board wants continuity and stability, and Terry's willingness to accept an additional four-year term of service shows his deep commitment to this work. The board and the commissioner are on the same page and want the same outcomes for Kentucky's students."

"Terry's dedication to what's best for students is unparalleled," said board member Brigitte Blom Ramsey. "He firmly believes that every child can be successful, if we maintain high expectations and provide appropriate supports. He has a gift for communicating about policy in a no-nonsense fashion, actively listening and taking action in a timely manner. And, without a doubt, Terry's focus on effective, efficient and innovative strategies will continue to serve Kentucky well."

"I'm grateful to the board members for this evidence of their support for and confidence in my work as commissioner," said Holliday. "I believe that continuity is crucially important as Kentucky moves forward in P-12 education, and I know that this state can maintain its status as a national leader through the work of Kentucky Department of Education staff, the board members, teachers, administrators, parents, students, our education partners and elected officials."

(more)

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Holliday was initially hired by the board in July 2009 as the state's fifth commissioner of education and accepted a four-year contract at that time. This contract extension will cover the period from August 5, 2013, through August 4, 2017. The contract extension does not provide for a raise in Holliday's salary, which remains at \$225,000 per year.

Since his initial hiring as commissioner, Holliday has been named to several state- and national-level groups, including the board of directors for the Council of Chief State School Officers ([CCSSO](#)), the National Assessment Governing Board ([NAGB](#)) and the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation's ([CAEP](#)'s) Commission on Standards and Performance Reporting.

Under Holliday's guidance, Kentucky has embarked on an intensive restructuring of the state's public school system and seen improvements in many measures. Major activities include:

- adoption of the Common Core State Standards in English/language arts and mathematics in March 2010
- granting of flexibility under the federal No Child Left Behind (NCLB) Act in February 2012
- working closely with legislators to pass bills such as 2010's House Bill 176 (KRS 160.346), which provides much-needed interventions in the state's lowest-performing schools
- implementation of a system of Leadership Networks designed to support the high-quality implementation of the requirements set forth in 2009's Senate Bill 1
- release of data showing Kentucky outscoring the nation on the 2011 National Assessment of Educational Progress (NAEP) science assessments
- improvement in overall scores on the EXPLORE (8th grade) and PLAN (10th grade) assessments taken in the fall of 2011
- improvement in the number of Kentucky public high school students taking Advanced Placement (AP) examinations and scoring at high levels
- development by the Commissioner's Raising Achievement/Closing Gaps Council (CRACGC) of *Guidelines for Closing the Gaps for All Students*, a document that is designed to help parents and community members become engaged in their schools and districts and to focus on statutory and regulatory expectations related to achievement gaps
- receipt of grants from the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation to support implementation of the new Common Core Standards (CCS) and to integrate effective teaching, CCS and instructional delivery
- the first administration of the TELL (Teaching, Empowering, Leading and Learning) Kentucky Survey in March 2011
- the launch of a new 21st-century instructional tool called the Continuous Instructional Improvement Technology System (CIITS)
- the field-testing of the proposed Teacher and Principal Professional Growth and Effectiveness System
- the signing of the "Commonwealth Commitment to College and Career Readiness" pledge by all school districts
- receipt of a federal Race to the Top grant of \$17 million to advance targeted K-12 reforms aimed at improving student achievement, specifically to implement professional development and resources and expand Advanced Placement offerings
- introduction of the Adaptive System of School Improvement Support Tools, or ASSIST™, to be used for the required Comprehensive School and District Improvement Planning (CSIP/CDIP) process
- the launch of the agency's Facebook page and Twitter feed in May 2011
- selection of the first group of students to serve on the inaugural statewide Next-Generation Student Advisory Council

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